

TNReady

Sample Items

English language arts

What Comes Next



- 1 "You need to get your mind off things," my friend Cassie announced. "And whenever *I* need to get my mind off things, this is where I go."
- 2 "Have I ever told you that the ocean kind of creeps me out?"
- 3 "I believe you may have mentioned it once or twice, yes."
- 4 We were halfway to the edge of the water, burdened down with piles of snorkeling equipment that Cassie accumulated in startling quantities. During the entire trip to the beach, I had been replaying the conversation I'd had with my father that morning about what I was going to do after graduation. That event was over a year away, but my father had a tendency to plan for everything eons in advance, and expected the rest of his family to do the same. If we didn't, he was more than happy to step in and offer plans of his own.
- 5 "I think it would do you good to get away from home," he had said. "Out of your comfort zone. Maybe go to college out of state, or even travel overseas for a while. A lot of young people do that before deciding what they want to do, you know."
- 6 "I have friends here."
- 7 "You'd make new friends there. And think of the experiences you'd have!"
- 8 My father wants me to see the world, immerse myself in foreign cultures, broaden my horizons, that kind of thing. My question to him was why I would leave a place where I was happy, to risk unhappiness somewhere far away.
- 9 "Here we are," Cassie said. "My absolute favorite spot in the world."
- 10 "You don't want me to go, do you? Away, I mean."
- 11 "Oh no, you're not getting me involved in that debate. Now get your gear on. This is going to blow your mind."
- 12 "So tell me, oh Queen of the Sea, what happens if we see a shark?"
- 13 "Try to make yourself look as unappetizing as possible."
- 14 Cassie laughed, as if congratulating herself on the funniest thing ever said. Truthfully, it was not really the prospect of sharks—which, as far as I knew, didn't inhabit this region anyway—that made me apprehensive about the ocean. I wasn't one of those people who refused to take a bath for a month after seeing the movie *Jaws*. It had more to do, I think, with the utter vastness of the ocean itself, the way the expanse of water stretched out so far into the distance that it seemed to go on forever. Who knew what lay beneath it all?
- 15 I was just a little girl the last time I'd gone snorkeling, on a weekend excursion to the beach with my parents. My father was going through a short-lived marine biology phase, and was determined to teach my mother and me about what he called "the inexplicable wonders" of the ocean. I recalled the sensation of moving slowly through the liquid landscape as I looked through my mask at the cloudy terrain below, imagining that behind every rock lurked a community of strange, menacing creatures. I had recently seen a nature show about the kinds of fish—if you could even call them fish—that inhabited the greatest depths of the oceans: grotesque, insect-like things with translucent bodies, huge eyes, and feelers that sprouted from their heads like some kind of alien appendages. Although of course I knew these monstrous things existed so far down that no human ever encountered them, the thought that they even existed down there gave me the shivers.



- 16 At one point during that snorkeling expedition, as I was paddling around through the murk, it suddenly seemed as if the bottom fell out of the ocean floor. I could feel a corresponding drop in the pit of my stomach as the water around me turned colder, and deepened to where I could no longer see the bottom at all. The fact that both my parents were only yards away didn't help: I was certain that I had passed some boundary and entered a world where I did not belong.
- 17 "How did I let you talk me into this?" I said to Cassie, but she was already yards ahead, slapping her fins, penguin-like, through the shallow water.
- 18 I put on my mask and adjusted the snorkel along the side of my head as carefully as I could, knowing that I'd probably suck vast quantities of sea water through it just the same. ("Hey," my father used to gently mock, "save some for the fish!") Gazing off into the distance, I thought about the people inhabiting the houses that lined the coast, and those aboard the ship that was passing by just off shore—living mysteries, all of them. I glanced back at Cassie, who was gently gliding through the water near an outcrop of rocks, her face down, her snorkel jutting into the air like some kind of weird antenna. We had been friends since we were kids, and though our personalities could not have been more different, we understood each other on some basic level that I couldn't have put into words if someone demanded it. She was, needless to say, one of the people I could not stand the prospect of leaving behind, a source of comfort who made the prospect of "new experiences" pale in comparison.
- 19 "C'mon, slowpoke," she called, now treading water out by the reef. "You won't believe how beautiful it is down there."
- 20 Beauty was not a concept I'd ever associated with the ocean before. But watching Cassie then, perceiving the look of utter joy on her face, it struck me just how differently the two of us viewed the world, and how the depths that so spooked me on occasion were to her a source of never-ending wonder and promise.
- 21 I took a deep breath as I moved out farther, past the gentle waves breaking against my thighs, and gave one last adjustment to my mask and snorkel before stretching out into a swim, resolved to try and let her show me whatever might be out there, whatever might come next.

Grade 9-11 Reading Language and Listening Training Test #1 – Multiple Choice

What effect does the narrator's use of the phrase "eons in advance" have on her description of her father in paragraph 4?

- Ⓐ The loaded phrase shows that the narrator believes her father's planning is funny.
- Ⓑ The inaccuracy leads the reader to think that the narrator misinterprets her father.
- Ⓒ The exaggeration reinforces the idea that the father makes a lot of advanced plans.
- Ⓓ The emotion in the phrase illustrates that the narrator expects her father to say something else.

Part A

Which is a central idea of the passage?

- A) The sea is a place of danger.
- B) Adolescence is a difficult transition into a new life.
- C) Parents usually know what is best for their children.
- D) It is better to trust your own feeling than to trust friends.

Part B

Select the detail from the passage that supports the central idea.

- 16 At one point during that snorkeling expedition, as I was paddling around through the murk, it suddenly seemed as if the bottom fell out of the ocean floor. I could feel a corresponding drop in the pit of my stomach as the water around me turned colder, and deepened to where I could no longer see the bottom at all. The fact that both my parents were only yards away didn't help: I was certain that I had passed some boundary and entered a world where I did not belong.

Select two phrases from the passage that support the idea that the narrator fears the future that lies before her.

- 14 Cassie laughed, as if congratulating herself on the funniest thing ever said. Truthfully, it was not really the prospect of sharks—which, as far as I knew, didn't inhabit this region anyway—that made me apprehensive about the ocean. I wasn't one of those people who refused to take a bath for a month after seeing the movie *Jaws*. It had more to do, I think, with the utter vastness of the ocean itself, the way the expanse of water stretched out so far into the distance that it seemed to go on forever. Who knew what lay beneath it all?

Part A

Why does the author mention the horror movie *Jaws* and a nature show about sea creatures?

- ☒ To show why the narrator is intimidated by the unknown.
- ☐ To show that snorkeling in the ocean can be dangerous.
- ☐ To reinforce the idea that the unknown can be challenging.
- ☐ To help describe what the narrator sees while snorkeling.

Part B

Select the detail from the passage that supports the answer to Part A.

- ☐ "I wasn't one of those people who refused to take a bath for a month after seeing the movie *Jaws*."
- ☒ "Who knew what lay beneath it all?"
- ☐ "I had recently seen a nature show about the kinds of fish—if you could call even call them fish—that inhabited the greatest depths of the oceans: grotesque, insect-like things with translucent bodies, huge eyes, and feelers that sprouted from their heads like some kind of alien appendages."
- ☐ "I put on my mask and adjusted the snorkel along the side of my head as carefully as I could, knowing that I'd probably suck vast quantities of sea water through it just the same."

Grade 9-11 Reading Language and Listening Training Test #5 – Multiple Select

Select two ways that the interactions with other characters support the development of the narrator's character.

- ☐ Cassie encourages her to hurry, and that eases the narrator's fears.
- ☐ Cassie expresses her feeling that the ocean is beautiful, and the narrator realizes she is right.
- ☐ The narrator's father encourages her to go beyond her comfort zone, and at the end she does.
- ☐ Going to the ocean with her family as a child makes the narrator feel assured about exploring new places.

Grade 9-11 Reading Language and Listening Training Test #6 – Short Extended Response

What does the reader learn about the narrator in the last paragraph?

Type your answer in the space provided.

Grade 9-11 Reading Language and Listening Training Test #7-9 – Language Items with Choices in the Text

There are five highlights in the passage to show which word or phrase may be incorrect. For each highlight, type in the correction.

Have you ever wondered how a relatively thin sleeping bag, jacket, or if you have a comforter filled with down can be so warm? Down feathers are the light, soft feathers that they find beneath the tougher exterior feathers of birds. Their loose structure allows them to trap air, and this insulation keeps the bird warm. In the same way, humans use down as insulation in many everyday products that keep us warm.

People have been using down feathers in this way since centuries. Though feathers from a variety of species of birds were used in the past; the most common source today is the domestic goose. Most of the supply comes from China, while the rest mostly originates in Europe and Canada.

How do you know whether your jacket or pillow is actually lined with down? The Federal Trade Commission, which promotes consumer protection, mandates that products labeled "100% Down" must contain nothing but down feathers. If you just see "Down" on the label, this indicates there is a mixture of both fiber and feathers; a label of "Goose Down" signifies a composition of at least 90% goose feathers.

Grade 9-11 Reading Language and Listening Training Test #10-12 – Language Items with Choices in the Text

There are five highlights in the passage to show which word or phrase may be incorrect. For each highlight, click the word or phrase that is correct.

In 1895, a man named William G. Morgan invented a game he called Mintonette. He modeled it on two other sports, tennis, and handball. This game soon became known as volleyball, the name comes from the volleys exchanged between the two teams.

Volleyball can be played either indoors or outdoors—for example, on the beach or grass. Today there are many different variations, such as footvolley and Hooverball. In footvolley (played with a soccer ball), which is from Brazil. Players use everything but their hands. Hooverball is played with a heavy medicine ball, which is caught and thrown back rather than hit across the net.

Volleyball is popular in many countries around the world, which has been an Olympic sport in 1964. Brazil, the United States, and Russia are frequent finalists in the competition. In 2008 the U.S. men's team beat Brazil for the gold medal.


ELA Passage 2 – Grade 9-11 Writing Training Test #1

Ready-Made Clothing and Tailoring



Ready-Made Clothing by National Institute of Standards and Technology


- 1 Before the American Civil War, ready-made apparel existed but its variety was limited. Coats, jackets and undergarments were only available in predetermined sizes. Most clothing was made by tailors, by individuals, or by their family members at home. The Civil War was a pivotal event in the historical development of men's ready-made clothing. At the outset of the Civil War, most uniforms were custom-made in workers' homes under government contract. As the war continued, however, manufacturers started to build factories that could quickly and efficiently meet the growing demands of the military. These factories were able to make uniforms for a fraction of the cost of home sewers. Mass-producing uniforms necessitated the development of standard sizes. Measurements taken of soldiers revealed that certain sets of measurements tended to recur with predictable regularity. There were certain ratios of shoulder to waist measurements that occurred more frequently than others. After the war, these measurements were used to create the first commercial sizing scales for men. Today these ratios persist in names of fits and cuts in men's suits, shirts, and denim jeans. A men's store might offer a slim fit, a classic fit and a relaxed fit to suit various tastes and body types.
- 2 The mass production of women's clothing developed more slowly. Women's outfits were generally custom-made well into the 1920s. At that point a number of factors came together to contribute to the success of the women's ready-made apparel industry. New industrial production techniques were developed, driving supply, and the advertising industry rose in prominence, driving sales. Most importantly, demand was created in the form of the rising urban professional class. Single and married women found themselves in new relationships to domestic life, work life, and fashion. Many spent less time in the home and all associated hand-made clothes with an older, more rural lifestyle. They no longer shopped at the town's general store for bolts of calico fabric. Chain stores and mail order catalogs offered multiple ways to access the new clothes. Ready-made articles of clothing were portrayed as modern and fashionable, if not sturdy. The new consumer industries were rapidly redefining the way Americans viewed mass-manufactured goods. The purchase of mass-produced clothing was sometimes seen as a loss of individuality. However, American women began to accept ready-made merchandise as convenient and affordable. They were up-to-date fashion items that could be easily replaced as styles changed. Making clothes more quickly meant styles did change more frequently as well. It took far less time for a designer to sketch a pattern and have an item made than ever before.

- 3 However, the new ready-made clothing often fit poorly. A tailor might take two dozen measurements when making a n  For example, determining the distance from the base of the neck to the middle of the shoulders is critical for an exact fit. Women's clothes are less straightforward and early male pattern makers did not know where to begin. Each manufacturer created its own unique and sometimes arbitrary sizing system. These systems were based on inaccurate body data or no body data at all. Different manufacturers frequently labeled garments of widely different dimensions the same size. This situation resulted in additional expenses for alterations. It also meant large volumes of returned merchandise. This meant more work for the consumer or tailor and for shop clerks and mail-order catalogues. It also meant overall increased costs for the consumer of ready-to-wear clothing. It was not until 1937 that the U.S. Department of Agriculture considered conducting a study of women's body measurements. They helped to create a standardized sizing system the entire industry could follow. Not all modern companies follow the same size chart but nearly all have standardized which types of measurements determine their sizes. If a woman knows just three measurements she can order from almost any retailer in the world.

"Ready-Made Clothing" adapted from
"Standardization of Women's Clothing: Short
History of Ready-Made Clothing" by National
Institute of Standards and Technology, at
[http://museum.nist.gov/exhibits/apparel/
history.htm](http://museum.nist.gov/exhibits/apparel/history.htm).

Tailoring

Passage

- 4 Clothes before the Industrial Revolution were made and worn very differently than they are now. For the most part, families made their own clothing by hand from fabric they made or purchased locally. Fabric was intricate and time-consuming to make. As a result it was a highly prized commodity. Merchants made their wealth in transporting fine fabrics and threads. In places like Scotland, fabrics called tartans showed clan affiliation. Polynesians spent hours beating plant fibers and tree bark into tapa cloth. For Hawaiians, part of this practice took on religious significance and was conducted in sacred spaces. Before mass production, fabric itself—the finished product as well as the process—could be very meaningful. While time, effort, and money were put into making or obtaining fabric, creating a garment was much less complicated. Almost every culture had some version of a tied robe or tunic—essentially, a loose fabric that draped and was secured by a belt, pin, or sash. In the Middle Ages such ties and belts helped Europeans to keep improperly fitted clothes secure on their bodies. Most clothes, especially those of the lower and middle classes, would be considered very oversized by modern standards. They were generally made out of one or two pieces of cloth to minimize waste.
- 5 With the Renaissance's changes in art and society came more fitted clothes. These garments were made by sewing several pieces of fabric together. The wealthy had clothes made by tailors, who often customized their own patterns. But without closures like zippers and buttons, people often had to be sewn into their clothes! Laces and corsets eventually solved some of these problems, but it was still incredibly difficult to get dressed back then. By the 17th century, crafting and tailoring of Western clothing required more and more skill as designs became more complex. Intricate scenes of animals or flowers were embroidered by hand. They took hours to complete and were a sign of the wearer's wealth. Gemstones might be sewn onto the collar or sleeve of a very fine garment. A fine cloth was only as good as its cut and decoration and a man or woman could make their fortune on the strength of these designs. At the height of the 18th century, French fashion garments were truly works of art. They took days and dozens of hands to complete, with each person contributing hours of specialized skill. The materials themselves came from miles away; some (like silk) even came from other countries!
- 6 Eventually political and social movements led to much more restrained and practical clothing. As embellishments and flashy fabrics fell out of use even among aristocrats, fit became increasingly more important in the 19th and 20th centuries. Instead of voluminous tunics or pants that tied, men began to wear suits. While suspender  were used for many years, pants had to fit accurately. Women wore trimmer dresses with buttons that allowed for more fitted looks. They put aside petticoats meant to give skirts more volume and many favored flowing looks over corseted ones. Clothing became a natural extension of the body rather than its decoration or disguise. Countries like England became renowned for their tailors and the wealthy traveled to have their clothes made. Tailoring was still expensive and not an option for all. Making a single coat might require several trips to the tailor, difficult for those who lived far away. The wealthy could travel into town or across provinces to attend several fittings a month. It was much less expensive to make clothing in the home and, if you could afford it, have a tailor help with the more complicated portions. Most often family members were each other's tailors, pinning and hemming in the home. While simple fabrics were much less expensive than before, clothes were still altered, mended, and handed down as children grew. Clothing was still not seen as replaceable or disposable. Eventually ready-made clothing would be available, but that brought its own set of problems. It would be several decades until fitted, comfortable clothing was truly affordable.

Writing Training Test Grades 9-11 #1 – Long Extended Response

Write a 2–3 paragraph explanation for your history class about the relationship between clothing styles and developments in clothing creation. Your explanation must be based on ideas, concepts, and information that can be determined through analysis of the “Ready-Made Clothing and Tailoring” passage set.

Manage your time carefully so you can

- plan;
- write; and
- revise and edit.

Type your answer in the space provided.

B ***I*** **U** ***I_x*** 